

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraphs [2] and [3] on page 3 with the following amended paragraphs:

[2] In accordance with the present invention, a hand carrier for a long arm firearm comprises an elongated, cylindrical handle attached to a grasping cradle. The handle is made of one piece of hard material grooved and drilled to permit releasable attachment to the grasping cradle. The grasping cradle has a front and back ~~member~~ section, both of which are U-shaped at the bottom to securely hold the long arm firearm. These ~~members~~ sections are joined to a ~~closed-end~~ member straight-line section and ~~open-end~~ member section in forming the cradle. The front and back members have a right and left side that are essentially symmetrical about a centerline through the U at the bottom and middle of the cross-section of the handle at the top. In the closed position, the only visible deviation in symmetry is the greater height of the right side of the front and back members. This greater height allows the overlap of the ~~closed-end~~ straight-line right side ~~member~~ section over the ~~open-end~~ left side ~~member~~ section.

[3] The ~~open-end~~ left-side ~~member~~ section is held in place in the handle by a bushing, washer, and screw at the front of the handle and by another bushing, washer and screw at the back of the handle. The ~~closed-end~~ straight-line right-side ~~member~~ section is guided into a longitudinal slot in the handle by the washers at the front and back ends of the handle.

Please replace the paragraphs starting with paragraph [3] on Page 7 through the end of Page 11 with the following amended paragraphs:

[3] The carrier of this invention is best understood by considering sections or members of the body, initially separate from the handle. Advantageously, the members sections are all part of one body 10 as shown in Fig. 8. The body 10 is preferably made of a continuous (single piece) 1/8-inch spring steel wire.

The members sections of the body 10 (as best seen in Fig. 8) are a front member section 11, a back member section 12, a ~~closed-end member~~ straight-line section 13 along a centerline 18 and an ~~open-end member~~ the two ends of the body opposed and aligned on a centerline 17 to form an open section 14.

The open member section 14 consists of a first end 15 and a second end 16 and the continuous wire body 10 opposed and spaced apart on a common centerline 17. End 15 is bent toward end 16 and the two ends have a lie on centerline 17 that which is parallel to a centerline 18 of the ~~closed-end member~~ straight line-section 13.

The front member section 11 is formed between the ~~closed-end member~~ straight-line section 13 and the ~~open-end member~~ section 14 as follows and as best seen in Fig. 8:

The wire of body 10 has a first bend 20 at a right angle to the centerline 18 of the ~~closed-end member~~ straight-line section 13 to join the front member section 11 and the ~~closed-end member~~ section 13. The wire progresses from the first bend 20 to a second bend 21, which gently curves the wire downwardly. The ~~closed-end~~ section 13 is at the top of the carrier, as seen

in Figs. 2 and 3. The wire continues in a downwardly direction to a third bend 22. This bend 22 is a triple bend and results in an inwardly extending dimple 23 on the right side of the front member section 11 to aid in gripping the rifle and in increasing the spring tension of the body 10. The wire continues downwardly from bend 22 to form the first leg 24 of a U-shape 25. At the bottom of the carrier the wire of body 10 is bent into a U-shape 25 to cradle the rifle. The wire extends upwardly to form a second leg 26 of the U-shape 25 and continues upwardly to a fourth bend 27. Bend 27 is also a triple bend that creates an inwardly extending dimple 28 on the left side of the front member section 11 that cooperates with dimple 23 on the right side to securely hold a rifle. The wire continues upwardly from the fourth bend 27 and to the left to form a space above the U-shape that has a width 30 (Fig. 4) that is greater than the width 31 (Fig. 4) across the U-shaped portion 25 between the legs 24 and 26. This greater width 30 provides a large opening when the carrier is in its open position for inserting the rifle into the carrier.

The wire continues upwardly to a sixth bend 33 where the wire curves to the right toward the open-end member section 14. The wire continues toward the open-end member section 14 to a seventh bend 35. Bend 35 is a right angle bend toward the back of the carrier and joins front member section 11 and open-end member section 14. The wire continues beyond bend 35 a short distance (about 7/8 inch) to form a leg 36 ending at the second end 16 of the wire.

The resulting front member section 11, when the carrier is in its closed position, has a right side and a left side essentially symmetrical about a centerline through the bottom of U-shape to and the center of the handle 5.

The width 30 of the upper space is 3 5/8 inches and the width 31 across U-shape 25 is 1 5/8 inches for a carrier designed for a hunting rifle of 30-06 caliber and rifles of similar caliber. The overall height of the carrier is 8 1/4 inches and the overall length is 6 inches. These dimensions will vary depending upon the long arm firearm to be carried.

The back member section 12 has the same bends in the wire and U-shape at the bottom as the front member section 11. For ease of reference, the elements of the back member section have the same numbers as the elements of the front member section except for a seventh bend 39. Bend 39 of the back member section causes the wire to bend toward the front of the carrier with a short leg 40 extending along the same centerline 17 as leg 36. Leg 40 (also about 7/8" long) stops at the first end 15. The distance between the first end 15 and the second end 16 when secured in the handle 5 is about 3 1/4" inches.

The closed-end member straight-line section 13 joins the front member section 11 and the back member section 12 on the right side of the carrier at the top of the carrier.

The wire of the body 10 forming the front member section 11 and the back member section 12 is best encased in a rubber sleeve 7 (Figs. 4 and 5) to cushion the rifle in the carrier. The sleeve 7 may be made of other material other than rubber that will cover the wire and cushion and protect the rifle from abrasion by the wire body 10.

A handle 5 completes the carrier with of the wire body 10, and sleeves 7, and with means for securing the front and back members at the open end to sections in the handle 5.

Handle 5 will be described with reference to the right front end shown in Figs. 2-5, with the wire body 10, and with reference to the front elevation view of in Fig.s 6 and the left side elevation view in Fig. 7, without the wire body in place. The same description applies to the left rear end of the handle 5.

The handle 5 is cylindrical in shape and is preferably made of wood or some other hard durable material. It is 6 inches in length and 1 1/4 inches in diameter. A first hole 51 is provided to receive the second end 16 and leg 36 of the wire body 10. The wire adjacent bend 35 and going into bend 33 is straight (portion 34 between bends 33 and 35). A first shelf 52 is provided in the handle 5 along a chord 49 1/8th inch from the center of the circular cross-section of the handle 5 for this part of the wire. This is seen best in Figs. 6 and 9. Shelf 52 extends longitudinally into the handle 5 to a wall 53 to permit the wire of leg 36 near bend 35 to rest on shelf 52 with the end 16 of leg 36 extending longitudinally into the handle 5. The inner wall 53 is at a sufficient depth to permit the ~~closed-end member~~ straight-line section 13 to pass over the top of the open ~~end-member~~ section 14 (and specifically legs 36 and 40) at bends 35 and 39 when positioned in the handle 5. This is seen in Figs. 4 and 9. A second shelf 61, parallel to the first shelf 52, and on a parallel chord 64 1/4th inch from the longitudinal center of the circular cross-section of handle 5, is created by a longitudinal cut or slot 59.

A third shelf 62 on the same chord 64 as shelf 61 is provided on the end of the chord opposite slot 59. This shelf 62 is a short shelf at each end of the handle and is a rest for the wire ~~of the closed member~~ at the end of the straight-line section 13 near bend 20 at the front and back

of the carrier. Shelf 62 extends from hole 51 to the outer periphery of handle 5 and is 3/8 inch in length.

The front ~~member~~ section 11 at the bend 35 is held in place in handle 5 by a bushing 54 (see Fig. 9). The bushing 54 centered on the longitudinal center line 50 of handle 5 is cylindrical in shape and is metallic. The bushing has a 3/8-inch outside diameter and is 1/4 inch long. A counter-sunk hole 55 in the end of the handle 5 accommodates the bushing 54. The second end 16 and the wire beyond bend 35 are held in place by bushing 54 and a washer 56 and a screw 57, both of which are also centered on the centerline 50 of handle 5. (See Fig. 9) The first end 15 and wire near the bend 39 on the back end are similarly held in place by a washer 60 and screw (not shown).

Please replace the paragraphs [2] and [3] on Page 12 with the following amended paragraphs:

[2] A shallow slit 59 is cut the length of the handle 5 along and above a chord 64 that is parallel to the chord of the first shelf 52. The depth of the slot 59 is sufficient to receive the diameter of the wire of the ~~closed-end member~~ straight-line section 13 and to hold it in place. This is best seen in Fig. 4 with the washer 56 and screw 57 removed.

[3] The front ~~member~~ section 11 and the back ~~member~~ section 12 are guided and held in place inside washer 56 at the right end and a similar washer 60 at the left end.

Please replace paragraph [6] on Page 12 and carrying over to page 13 with the following amended paragraph:

[6] To attach the ~~one-hand carrier~~ one-hand carrier first, without exception, carefully inspect the rifle to see that it is unloaded and there are no obstructions in the barrel. Secondly, place the rifle with its longitudinal axis approximately parallel to the user's chest with the butt stock against a firm surface. Continuing, with one hand on the forepart of the rifle, to the rear of the muzzle, hold the rifle at an upward angle approximately forty-five degrees to the horizontal. With the other hand, grasp the handle 5 of the carrier and reach over and across the rifle. Place the carrier beneath the rifle so that ~~U-shape~~ of back ~~member~~ section 12 will be positioned firmly, approximately 3/4 inch in front of the trigger guard. (Also this will position the front ~~member~~ section 11 correctly.) Adjust the plane of the vertical axis of the carrier so that it will be on the plane of the vertical axis of the rifle. (This will ensure that there will be equal clearance on both sides of the rifle sighting equipment adjacent to the carrier.)

Please replace the first full paragraph on Page 13 with the following amended paragraph:

While continuing to hold the carrier against the bottom of the rifle, remove the other hand from the forepart of the rifle and place the hand in a transverse squeezing position across the top of back ~~member~~ section 12. At this point, squeeze ~~members~~ sections 11 and 12 until ~~closed-end~~ ~~member~~ straight-line section 13 rides up and over handle 5 and snaps into slot 59. The rifle is now ready for a one-hand carry with the weight of the rifle pulling downward along a straight

line through the arm, wrist, and hand; thus avoiding the fatigue of one-handed carry without a carrier.

Please replace the paragraphs [2] and [3] on Page 14 with the following amended paragraphs:

[2] To detach the hand carrier, first, without exception, carefully inspect the rifle to see that it is unloaded and that there are no obstructions in the barrel.

[3] Next, place the rifle with its longitudinal axis approximately parallel to the chest of the user and the bottom of the rifle against a firm horizontal surface. Carefully place one hand in a transverse squeezing position across the top of front member section 11, and place the other hand in a transverse squeezing position across the top of back member section 12. At this point squeeze front member section 11 and back member section 12 until closed-end member straight-line section 13 can be pushed vertically by tips of both first fingers to clear slot 59. Release the squeezing action to permit closed-end member straight-line section 13 to ride up and over handle 5, thereby opening the carrier and allowing its the removal of the carrier from the rifle or the rifle from the carrier. Now, without adjustment, the carrier may be transferred to another rifle or user.